

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 124 and 125 have been rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 2, at least, of U.S. Patent No. 6,369,025, and over Claim 11, at least, of U.S. Patent No. 6,323,172. Once patentable subject matter has otherwise been identified, Applicants will consider filing a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate these rejections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 124 and 125 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over any of Katzenellenbogen et al., Martin et al., Eliel et al., and Green et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In response to Applicants' arguments dated January 9, 2003, the Office Action asserts that the Applicants stated that the compounds disclosed in the art would not be suitable as solvents for fabric softeners. Applicants respectfully point out that no such statement was made by the Applicants.

With respect to Katzenellenbogen et al., Martin et al., Eliel et al., and Green et al., although each reference discloses certain diols, the references do not teach or suggest the presently claimed diols. The Office Action asserts that the claimed 7-carbon diols are simple structural isomers of the 7-carbon diols disclosed in the references. However, neither Katzenellenbogen et al., Martin et al., Eliel et al., nor Green et al. disclose or suggest such structural isomers. As a result, neither Katzenellenbogen et al., Martin et al., Eliel et al., nor Green et al. would motivate one of skill in the art to the principal solvents as presently claimed. Applicants thus submit that Claims 124 and 125 are unobvious over any of Katzenellenbogen et al., Martin et al., Eliel et al., and Green et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

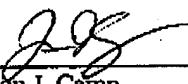
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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